



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/566,985	12/04/2006	Tetsuya Ezure	Q93071	2592
23373	7590	06/08/2010		
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC 2100 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 800 WASHINGTON, DC 20037				
			EXAMINER TAI, XIUYU	
			ART UNIT 1795	PAPER NUMBER
NOTIFICATION DATE	DELIVERY MODE			
06/08/2010	ELECTRONIC			

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

sughrue@sughrue.com
PPROCESSING@SUGHRUE.COM
USPTO@SUGHRUE.COM

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/566,985	Applicant(s) EZURE ET AL.
	Examiner Xiuyu Tai	Art Unit 1795

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If no period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 April 2010.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-25 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 6-25 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement (PTO/US/02/)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date See Continuation Sheet

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____

Continuation of Attachment(s) 3). Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08), Paper No(s)/Mail Date :3/7/2006, 4/13/2007, 8/9/2007, 7/21/2008, 5/18/2010.

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election of Species A of Group I in the reply filed on 4/29/2010 is acknowledged. Applicants indicate that the election reads on claims 1-5, 7, 8, 10-24. However, the examiner believes that species A reads on claims 1-5 while non-elected Species B, C, D, E, and F encompass claims 7-8, 10-13, 14-17, 18-19, and 20-21 respectively. Therefore, claims 7-8, 10-13, 14-17, 18-19, and 20-21 will be withdrawn. Applicants also amended claims 22, 23, and 24 which are parallel to withdrawn claims 10, 14, and 18, respectively (see page 11 of REMARKS). Since non-elected Species C, D, and E read on amended claims 22, 23, and 24 respectively, amended claims 22, 23, and 24 will be withdrawn from consideration. Therefore, claims 1-5 will be examined on the merits. Claims 6-25 will be withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

2. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Art Unit: 1795

4. Claims 1, and 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nunoi et al (JP 2002-319689, cited in IDS).

5. Regarding claim 1, Nunoi et al disclose a dye-sensitized solar cell. The solar cell is laminated within housing (i.e. a casing, paragraph [0061]).) formed by base side 11 and top side 12 (paragraph [0053], Drawing 2 and 3). The multi-layered solar cell (i.e. a stacked body) comprises:

(1) a first conductive layer 2 (i.e. a working electrode) having TiO₂ layer 3 (i.e. a porous oxide semiconductor layer) and photosensitizing pigment (i.e. a sensitizing dye, paragraph [0051], Drawing 2);

(2) a second conductive layer 7 (i.e. a counter electrode) facing the first conductive layer 1 (paragraph [0051], Drawing 2);

(3) a carrier transport layer 9 of polymer electrolyte (i.e. an electrolyte layer) between the first and second conductive layer2 (paragraph [0052], Drawing 2);

wherein the first and second conductive layers 2/7 (i.e. upper and lower surfaces) of the multi-layered solar cell contact the base and top sides 11/12 (Drawing 3 and 4) and the first conductive layer 2 is in the form of transparent layer SnO₂ (paragraph [0051]).

6. Regarding claim 3, the laminated solar cell also includes a drawing polar zone 5 to draw electricity (i.e. a second conductive body, paragraph [0051], Drawing 2 and 3) and another drawing polar zone 10 (i.e. a first conductive body, paragraph [0052], Drawing 2 and 3), wherein one end of the drawing polar zone 5 is connected to the first conductive layer 2 and the other end of the drawing polar zone 5 is extended outside

the enclosure (Drawing 4 and 6, paragraph [0059]) while one end of the drawing polar zone 10 is connected to the second conductive layer 7 and the other end of the drawing polar zone 10 is extended outside the enclosure (Drawing 4 and 6, paragraph [0059]).

7. Regarding claim 4, the drawing polar zones 5 and 10 are extended outside the enclosure from the side walls of the enclosure (i.e. side portion, Drawing 4 and 6).

Regarding claim 5, the drawing polar zones 5 and 10 are extended outside the enclosure along the base side 11 of the enclosure (i.e. a bottom portion, Drawing 4 and

6).Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation

under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nuno et al (JP 2002-319689, cited in IDS) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Nakamura (U.S. 6,291, 763).

12. Regarding claim 2, Nuno does not teach an elastic member between the second conductive layer 7 and the housing. However, Nakamura discloses a dye-sensitized solar cell as shown in Figure 1. Nakamura teaches that a sealing material (i.e. an elastic member) is provided between the electrode and the supporting frame (i.e. a casing) of a module in order to secure tight seal of the inside of the module (col. 30, line 50-56). Therefore, it would be obvious for one having ordinary skill in the art to include a sealing material as suggested by Nakamura within the device of in order to protect and to secure seal the inside components of Nuno.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Xiuyu Tai whose telephone number is 571-270-1855. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday, 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Alexa Neckel can be reached on 571-272-1446. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1795

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/X. T./
Examiner, Art Unit 1795

/Alexa D. Neckel/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1795